

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 03463 161032Z
ACTION HA-05

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9478
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJ: BOAT CASE REFUGEE PROGRAM: RESULTS OF UNHCR VISIT TO HONG
KONG

REF: HONG KONG 3248

1. BEFORE DEPARTING HONG KONG ON MAR 16, UNHCR REP CARPENTER
GAVE US BRIEFING ON RESULTS HIS VISIT HERE.

2. OF THE 17 BOAT CASE REFUGEES ACCEPTED BY NORWAY, ONLY 11
SIGNED NORWEGIAN VISA FORMS. THEY ARE NOW SCHEDULED DEPART
HONG KONG ON MAR22. THE 6 REFUGEES WHO REFUSED NORWEGIAN
OFFER WERE INFORMED BY CONGEN THEY ARE INELIGIBLE FOR U.S.
SINCE THEY DECLINED THIRD COUNTRY OFFER. NORWEGIAN CONSULATE
WOULD STILL ACCEPT THEM NEAR FUTURE SHOULD THEY CHANGE THEIR
MINDS.

3. REGARDING SWISS OFFICER, 16 REFUGEES WILL DEPART HONG KONG
APRIL 24 AND 14 REFUGEES IN AUGUST. ANOTHER 11 ARE ON
RESERVE LIST. CARPENTER TRIED TO GET AUGUST MOVEMENT
ADVANCED, BUT SWISS NOTED JOB PLACEMENT, ETC.,
NECESARY BEFORE MOVEMENT CAN BE APPROVED, ONE
FAMILY OF 5 REFUGEES WHO WERE ACCEPTED FOR APRIL

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MOVEMENT REFUSED SWISS OFFER. FAMILY WAS INFORMED
BY CONGEN THAT THEY INELIGIBLE FOR U.S. SINCE THEY
DECLINED THIRRD COUNTRY OFFER.

4. CANADIAN COMMISSION CONFIRMED TO CARPENTER THAT IT
HAS PROGRAM FOR 5 BOAT CASE FAMILIES MONTHLY, BUT
THAT SLOTS NOT CUMULATIVE. COMMISSION WILL CONSIDER

ONLY THOSE REFUGEES WHO HAVE SOME TIE TO CANADA
OR WHO HAVE SKILLS INDICATING THEY WILL BE SELF-
SUPPORTING. CANADIANS HERE WILL NOT RECRUIT, AND WANT
ONLY THOSE REFUGEES WHO GENUINELY WANT GO TO CANADA.
ANOTHER COMPLICATION IS THAT SINCE MAJORITY WOULD
SETTLE IN QUEBEC PROVINCE, THEY MUST ALSO BE APPROVED
BY QUEBEC IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL WHO ONLY VISITS HONG
KONG FOR TIME TO TIME.

5. AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION INFORMED CARPENTER THAT IT WOULD
CONSIDER ANY REFUGEE WITH FAMILY MEMBER IN AUSTRALIA.

6. CARPENTER REPORTED THAT HONG KONG IMMIGRATION DEPT
INFORMED HIM THAT ANY BOAT CASE REFUGEES WITH RELATIVE
(COULD BE AS DISTANT AS COUSIN OR UNCLE/AUNT) IN HONG
COULD BE ACCEPT FOR RESETTLEMENT HERE. THIS WILL
APPLY TO BOAT CASE REFUGEES NOT ONLY IN HONG KONG,
BUT IN OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM.
UNHCR WILL ASSIST TO LOCATE SPONSORS AND VERIFY
RELATIONSHIP IN HONG KONG.

7. CARPENTER DID NOT VISIT FRENCH OR OTHER CONSULATES.
HE BELIEVES THAT ONLY REAL THIRD COUNTRY PROGRAM
HERE AT PRESENT IS CANADIAN PROGRAM AND WE AGREED
WORK CLOSELY WITH ICEM HONG KONG, WHICH WILL ACT ON
BEHALF UNHCR IN APPROACHING OTHER CONSULATES HERE
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ON RESETTLEMENT POSSIBILITY, TO GIVE CANADIANS EVERY
OPPORTUNITY FILL THEIR MONTHLY SLOTS.

8. WE BELIEVE WE ARE CORRECT IN TELLING THOSE 4 CASES
(11 PERSONS) WHO DECLINED NORWEGIAN AND SWISS OFFERS
THEY ARE THEREBY INELIGIBLE FOR U.S. PROGRAM.
ASSURANCES WERE RECEIVED ON THREE CASES (12/28/77;
1/23/78; 2/14/78) BUT THEY ARE ON MEDICAL HOLD (TB)
AND APPROVED WAIVERS NOT YET RECEIVED. ONE OTHER
CASE LACKS ASSURANCE. ALL APPEAR BELIEVE THAT IF THEY
WAIT, CONGEN WILL RELENT AFTER WAIVERS AND ONE SPONSOR-
SHIP ARE RECEIVED, HOWEVER, AS MENTIONED REFTEL,
WE BELIEVE IF WE GIVE IN ON THESE CASES, OTHER WILL
REFUSE ACCEPT THIRD COUNTRY OFFERS IN FUTURE, SUCH
AS CANADA. IF DEPT BELIEVES OUR STANCE THESE 4 CASES
NOT CORRECT, PLEASE ADVISE. CONGEN PLANS RETURN 3
ACVA ASSURANCES ON HAND AND ADVISE ACVA CEASE
SPONSORSHIP SEARCH ON OTHER CASE.
SHOESMITH

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